

Message Text

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70

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JDFORBES:CHG
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EA/P - MR SMITH
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P R 132130Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111397

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF EMERGENCY MEASURE 9 ON AMERICAN
JOURNALISTS

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE APPLICABILITY OF
EMERGENCY MEASURE NO 9 TO AMERICAN NEWSMEN REPORTING
ON KOREAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL EVENTS. LITERAL READING
WOULD MAKE FOREIGN NEWSMEN LIABLE TO MINIMUM OF ONE
YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT FOR REPORTING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
BANNED BY NEW MEASURE. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD APPEAR
THAT DECREE AUTHORIZES APPROPRIATE ROKG MINISTRIES
TO PREVENT NEWS REPORT FROM BEING FILED ABROAD AND BAR
NEWSMEN FROM ENTERING KOREA.

2. IN CASE OF 1974 EMERGENCY MEASURES, SEVERAL US NEWS-
MEN DID IN FACT CHALLENGE PROVISIONS OF DECREES BY
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FILING STORIES ON PROSCRIBED SUBJECTS. WE WOULD EXPECT

SIMILAR SITUATION TO ARISE AGAIN.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO ROKG OUR CONCERN
ON THIS POINTING OUT THAT WE WOULD HOPE BROADLY WORDED
PROVISIONS OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO 9 WOULD NOT APPLY

TO AMERICAN REPORTERS CARRYING OUT THEIR JOURNALISTIC
RESPONSIBILITIES.

INGERSOLL

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